REMARKS

Entry of the Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

By the present amendment, original claims 1-21 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and replaced by new claims 22-45. The new claims find support throughout the original claims and specification. No new matter has been introduced.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, he/she is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 838-6683.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: October 10, 2003

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